



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Grants Pass Resource Area  
2164 N.E. Spalding  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

IN REPLY REFER TO  
1790 (ORM070)

FEB 13 2014

Dear Interested Party:

The Categorical Exclusion for the proposed Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project is available for public review and comment. The Stratton/Brimstone Fire area is located on the Grants Pass Resource Area, Medford District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) west of the community of Hugo. The Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project includes approximately 170 acres of post fire salvage and approximately 0.5 miles of temporary route construction on the Matrix land use allocation. Salvage is not proposed in Riparian Reserves, 100 acre Northwest Forest Plan northern spotted owl (NSO) activity centers and 70 acre NSO nest patches.

The proposed salvage would remove fire-injured and fire-killed trees. The trees were injured or killed in a wildfire that occurred in July of 2013. The Stratton Creek and Brimstone fires were caused by a lightning storm. These fires burned 2,452 acres, 1,520 of these acres occurred on BLM managed lands. The remaining acres burned on non-federally managed lands.

Removal of fire injured and killed commercial trees would be accomplished by ground-based yarding, cable yarding and or helicopter yarding. To facilitate yarding approximately 0.5 miles of temporary routes would be constructed. These temporary routes would be constructed on the upper slopes of ridges and decommissioned after use.

The Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project Categorical Exclusion is available for a 15 day review and public comment period. I encourage you to provide comments in writing regarding the proposed project starting February 18, 2014 to the Grants Pass Resource Area Field Manager, Allen Bollschweiler, at the address below. Comments will be considered in making the final decision.

Comments need to be submitted on or before March 3, 2014. Comments may be delivered or mailed to the Grants Pass Interagency Office, 2164 NE Spalding Avenue, 97526. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., closed holidays. The document may also be accessed on the Medford District's internet site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php>. If you have questions or comments and do not have internet access or would prefer a paper copy of this document, please contact Leah Schofield, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (541) 471-6504.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored by the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals

identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Thank you for your interest in public land management in the Grants Pass Resource Area.

Sincerely,



Allen Bollschweiler  
Field Manager  
Grants Pass Resource Area

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT  
GRANTS PASS RESOURCE AREA  
2164 NE Spalding Ave  
Grants Pass, OR 97526**

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**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOCUMENTATION**

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**STRATTON/BRIMSTONE SALVAGE PROJECT**

**DOI- BLM-OR-M070-2014-002-CX**

**A. Background**

**BLM Office:** Grants Pass Resource Area

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2014-002-CX

**Proposed Action Title:** Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project

**Location of Proposed Action:** Stratton Creek Fire: Township 34 South, Range 7 West, Section 27, Willamette Meridian, Josephine County, Oregon.

Brimstone Fire: Township 34 South, Range 7 West, Section 13 and 23, Willamette Meridian, Josephine County, Oregon

**Stratton Creek Fire:** The Stratton Creek Fire began July 5, 2013. The fire burned west of the town of Hugo. A total of 154 acres was burned, 107 of these acres occurred on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Matrix lands, 100 acre Northwest Forest Plan northern spotted owl activity centers and Riparian Reserve Land Use Allocations (LUA). The remaining 47 acres burned on nonfederal land. The proposed action area is within the Douglas-fir Plant Series in the plant association group PSME/PIPO consisting of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and California black oak. Ponderosa pine, a fire adapted species exhibits the best crowns and for now has acquired a competitive advantage over other tree species. Sprouting of hardwoods was evident throughout the proposed action area 1 month after the fire.

**Brimstone Fire:** The Brimstone Fire began July 26, 2013. The fire burned with a mixed severity west of the town of Hugo. A total of 2,298 acres were burned, 1,413 of these acres occurred on BLM Matrix lands, 100 acre Northwest Forest Plan northern spotted owl activity centers and Riparian Reserve LUA. The remaining 885 acres burned on nonfederal lands. Many of the draw bottoms experienced less burn severity than upper slopes. The proposed action area is within the dry Douglas-fir Plant Associations consisting mostly of Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and California black oak.

**Description of Proposed Action**

The BLM is proposing a post fire salvage project on 170 acres within the Grants Pass Resource Area that were affected by the Stratton Creek Fire and the Brimstone Fire. The salvage would occur within 18 units on the Matrix land use allocation within the fire perimeter. These units range in size from 1 to 28 acres (See Appendix 1: Stratton/Brimstone

Salvage Project Map). Riparian Reserves, 100 acre Northwest Forest Plan northern spotted owl activity centers and 70 acre northern spotted owl nest patches are excluded from salvage treatments. Salvage treatments would remove fire-injured and fire-killed trees. For the purpose of this CX, a fire-injured tree is defined as a Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, or incense cedar tree with a high probability of mortality. Green trees may be removed during harvest activities. Green tree removal may include but is not limited to yarding corridors, temporary routes, and areas adjacent to landings. Green tree removal would facilitate harvest operations and ensure the safe removal of fire-injured and fire-killed trees.

No treatments would occur within Riparian Reserves. Full Riparian Reserve buffers would be 200 feet on either side of perennial and intermittent streams and perennial springs or 400 feet total. Fish bearing streams would receive a 400 foot buffer on either side of the stream, or 800 feet total. Intermittent seeps and springs would receive a 100 foot radial buffer. All streams, seeps, and wetlands have been field verified and are excluded from the proposed action area.

Within units that occur outside of northern spotted owl 500 acre core areas an average of 2 snags per acre would be retained. Within the Stratton Creek unit 27-24 and unit 23-9, 4 to 7 snags per acre would be retained. The snags would generally be clumped along the sides and near the bottom of treatment units to facilitate safe salvage operations. Units within northern spotted owl 500 acre core areas would retain all coarse woody debris. Proposed treatment units outside of northern spotted owl 500 acre core areas would retain a minimum of 120 linear feet of merchantable coarse woody debris. In addition to the 120 linear feet of coarse woody debris 280 linear feet of non-merchantable coarse woody debris would be retained. Proposed treatment units that lack the additional 280 linear feet of coarse woody debris would retain the minimum of 120 linear feet of coarse woody debris. Where present, retained coarse woody debris would be on average 400 linear feet per acre, 120 linear feet of merchantable coarse woody debris, and 280 linear feet of non-merchantable coarse woody debris.

To facilitate salvage operations 0.5 miles of temporary routes would be constructed in three locations. All temporary routes would be decommissioned after use. The proposal also includes 26.7 miles of road maintenance and 26.7 miles of road renovation activities.

Trees would be yarded using cable, tractor and or helicopter yarding methods. Cable and tractor landings would be placed on roadsides and would be limited to  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre in size. Existing helicopter landings may be utilized and are up to 1 acre in size. Tractor yarding and cable yarding operations would be restricted to the dry season but may be extended into fall if dry season conditions persist. Helicopter yarding would be permitted during dry conditions in the wet season. Hauling may occur during dry conditions in the wet season.

Trees to be removed for salvage would not be whole-tree yarded and may or may not be yarded with tops attached. Salvaged trees would be processed and cut to log length within the treatment units. Slash remaining in units after yarding would be treated by lop-and-scatter or handpiled and burned. Any slash at landings would be used for biomass or piled and burned.

The lop-and-scatter treatment would arrange slash in a discontinuous horizontal pattern at a

depth not to exceed 18 inches in height. The material would decompose faster in this arrangement and minimize the amount of time the slash would be available to influence fire behavior. Retained slash would mitigate negative impacts to sensitive burned soils, decrease the chance of off-site erosion and increase nutrients retained on site.

A handpile and burn treatment would be recommended when the amount of retained slash prevents a discontinuous pattern from being attained as described above. The amount of time the slash would be available to influence fire behavior is therefore minimized through pile burning rather than decomposition.

### **Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Project Design Features (PDFs)**

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by the Federal Clean Water Act to reduce nonpoint source pollution to the maximum extent practicable. The BMPs are methods, measures, or practices incorporated into the 1995 Resource Management Plan (RMP) through an RMP plan maintenance action in July of 2012. The purpose is to minimize or prevent sediment delivery to the waters of the United States. BMPs are noted by an asterisk \*. Project Design Features (PDFs) are measures included in the site specific design on the proposal to eliminate or minimize adverse impacts on the human environment. PDFs are noted by a bullet. Measures that apply to all proposed activities are identified first, followed by measures that apply to individual activities.

#### Measures Common to All Project Activities

- \* Any project related activities would be suspended if conditions develop that cause a potential for sediment laden runoff to enter a wetland, floodplain or waters of the state.
- \* All exposed soil would be covered or otherwise temporarily stabilized, or winterized<sup>1</sup>, prior to season ending wetting rains. Winterization would occur on temporary routes, landings, yarding corridors, skid trails, and other areas of exposed soils.
- Sediment trapping devices would be properly installed to hydrologically disconnect sites. Operations would resume when sediment control devices are in place and conditions allow turbidity standards to be met.
- Seed and straw used for rehabilitation, decommissioning, winterization, planting of bare soil, and post treatment throughout the proposed action area would be approved species mixtures, and certified weed free, to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

#### Harvest Operations

- No harvest activities would occur within the Riparian Reserve. For this project area, this would include the 200 feet on both sides and above all perennial and intermittent streams.

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<sup>1</sup> Winterization - rehabilitation activities on temporary routes, landings, yarding corridors, skid trails, and other areas of exposed soils by properly installing and/or using water bars, berms, sediment basins, gravel pads, hay bales, small dense woody material, seeding and/or mulching, to reduce sediment runoff as directed by the Authorized Officer.

This distance would be extended to 400 feet on both sides, and above, all fish streams. Use of existing roads within and crossing the Riparian Reserve would be permitted as long as Project Design Features are followed.

- Tractor and cable yarding operations would be restricted to the dry season; generally beginning in mid-May and ending mid-October. The dry season may be extended into the fall if wetting winter rains have not occurred, the weather forecast is monitored daily, and all winterization<sup>1</sup> actions can reasonably occur prior to the season ending storm event. Helicopter yarding would be permitted during dry conditions in the wet season.
- Existing skid trails would be utilized whenever practical. New skid trails would be approved by the Authorized Officer prior to implementation.
- Upon completion of harvest utilized skid trails would be rehabilitated<sup>2</sup>.
- Ground based skidding trails would be limited to slopes less than 35% and yarding equipment would be limited to approved skid trails.
- Tractors would be equipped with an integral arch to minimize soils disturbance and equipment would walk over as much ground litter as possible to reduce compaction.
- At a minimum, partial suspension would be required on all ground based and cable units to minimize soil disturbance. Full suspension would be required if yarding is needed to cross unstable areas or buffered draws.
- To minimize soil disturbance, the use of blades while tractor yarding would not occur.
- Tractors would not exceed 9 feet in width to minimize soils disturbance and compaction. Skid trails including turning points would be 12 feet width on average.

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<sup>2</sup> Rehabilitation/Decommissioning - Rehabilitated/Decommissioned areas would be discontinuously sub-soiled, seeded and mulched where applicable. If not applicable areas would have fine slash placed over, water-barred, and blocked. Sub-soiling would be implemented using a winged ripping device placed on bucket or pulled behind ground based equipment that is capable of sub-soiling the full width of the skid trail; rips would be no more than 36 inches apart and would be to a depth of 18 inches or to bedrock, whichever is shallower. All rehabilitation activities that use heavy equipment would be required to take place at same time as sub-soiling to prevent machinery from driving back over sub-soiled ground. Waterbar spacing and drainage angles would be based on the NWFP Standards and Guidelines erosion control measures for timber harvest which considers slope and soil series (RMP, p. 167). All rehabilitation would occur within 24 months of harvest, and during the dry season when soils at 4-6" no longer maintain form when compressed, and soils on the surface do not readily displace under pressure to form ribbons, tracks, or ruts.

- To retain slash for nutrient retention and ground cover needs, whole tree yarding and biomass removal within units would not occur.
- Where naturally occurring merchantable coarse woody debris exceeds 120 linear feet per acre, additional merchantable coarse woody debris may be removed as a commercial product. In addition to the 120 linear feet of merchantable material, a minimum of 280 linear feet of non-merchantable coarse woody debris would be retained. Where present, the total retention for coarse woody debris per unit would be 400 linear feet.
- Lateral yarding would be required on all units to protect residual leave trees and existing conifer regeneration. Yarding carriages would be required to maintain a fixed position during lateral yarding to reduce damage to the residual stand.
- Directional falling toward the lead would be required on cable yarded units to minimize damage to residual (reserve) trees.
- The number of cable yarding corridors would be minimized to reduce soil compaction and displacement from cable yarding. Cable yarding corridors would be located approximately 150 feet apart at the tail end.
- \* Prior to seasonal winter rains (generally October 15), all yarding corridors would be water-barred as per the Medford RMP (p.167) water bar spacing guidelines to minimize erosion and transport of sediment to streams.
- \* Prior to seasonal winter rains, cable yarding corridors, and other areas of exposed soil resulting from this action, would have slash, wood chips, and/or straw mulch placed over them to reduce the risk of surface erosion and to protect water quality. Slash would not exceed a depth of 18 inches, and some ground cover would be left on site during fuels reduction treatments.

### Landings

- Construction and rehabilitation of landings would be restricted to the dry season; generally beginning mid-October and ending mid-May of the following year. The season may be extended into Fall if wetting winter rains have not occurred, the weather forecast is monitored daily, and all winterization actions can reasonably occur prior to the season ending storm event.
- Landings would be located on stable locations that minimize sediment delivery potential to streams (e.g., ridge tops, stable benches or flats, and gentle-to-moderate convex or planar side-slopes), in areas with low risk for landslides, and outside jurisdictional wetlands. Placement of landings on unstable headwalls would be avoided.
- Landings used during dry conditions within the wet season (generally October through May, see above) that have the potential to release sedimentation into a stream or wet area via ditchlines or other means, would have silt fencing or other sediment control measures in place if they are hydrologically connected<sup>3</sup> to streams. Disposal of captured sediment would occur outside of Riparian Reserves.
- Landings and landing piles would be placed outside of Riparian Reserves.
- All new landing areas would be rehabilitated to reduce soil compaction, minimize sedimentation, and improve site productivity. Landings within existing road prisms and rock quarries would not be planted with conifers following use.
- During rehabilitation of landings, divert runoff water away from headwalls, slide areas, high landslide hazard locations or steep erodible fill slopes.
- At landing sites Merchantable sawlogs would be removed, and any remaining would be piled and burned, chipped, or removed for biomass utilization.
- To minimize scorch and mortality, landing piles would not be placed adjacent to or within 15 feet of leave trees. Landing piles would be as free of dirt as reasonably possible to facilitate desired consumption.

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<sup>3</sup> Hydrologically Connected – The term Hydrologically Connected where drainage features are connected to stream channels via surface water flow routes, including headwater springs. This determination is made with project specific field verified stream surveys to identify where sediment has the potential to be carried to streams; where precipitation and subsurface flows on impermeable road surfaces may be intercepted, concentrated, and carried to stream channels; and where ditchlines are increasing the stream network (for more information see Hydrologically-Connected Roads: An Indicator of the Influence of Roads on Chronic Sedimentation, Surface Water Hydrology, and Exposure to Toxic Chemicals by M. Furniss et al. (USDI, Forest Service Stream Systems Technology Center website at [http://stream.fs.fed.us/news/streamnt/jul00/jul00\\_2.htm](http://stream.fs.fed.us/news/streamnt/jul00/jul00_2.htm)).

- After final disturbance landings would be seeded, mulched, and ripped with native seed and weed-free straw, per specifications provided by the project botanist.

Hauling and Road Maintenance

- Haul would not occur on hydrologically connected natural surface or rocked roads when water is flowing in the ditchlines, or during any conditions that would result in any of the following: surface displacement such as rutting or ripples; continuous mud splash or tire slide; fines being pumped through road surfacing from the subgrade and resulting in a layer of surface sludge; road drainage causing a visible increase in stream turbidities, or any condition that would result in water being chronically routed into tire tracks or away from designed road drainage during precipitation events. Hauling on natural surface or rocked roads would not resume for a minimum of 48 hours following any storm event that results in ½ inch or more precipitation within a 24 hour period, and until road surface is sufficiently dry to prevent any of the above conditions from reoccurring, and as approved by the Authorized Officer.
- Spot rocking of the road surface would occur prior to, and during, all hauling operations, as necessary to protect the road surface from developing pot holes or similar types of surface irregularities.
- Non-emergency road maintenance work would typically occur during the dry season . Certain activities (blading of aggregate roads, rocking, brushing, cross drain installation) would be permitted during the wet season; generally beginning mid-October and ending mid-May of the following year. The season may be extended into Fall if wetting winter rains have not occurred, the weather forecast is monitored daily, and all winterization actions can reasonably occur prior to the season ending storm event. If these activities would occur within 200 feet of streams, sediment control devices would be placed and maintained as necessary to prevent action related stream sedimentation.
- No ditch maintenance would occur during the wet season (generally October through May, see above) unless for safety or resource protection. Work would be suspended during precipitation events or when observations indicate that saturated soils exist to the extent that there is visible runoff or a potential for causing elevated stream turbidity and sedimentation. Emergency road work could occur during the wet season, but would not be related to this project.
- \* Blading and vegetation removal would be avoided unless necessary to remove drainage impediments when maintaining inboard ditches. Sediment control measures will be evaluated and implemented if necessary, where ditchline blading is required within 200 feet of streams.
- Waste material from road maintenance activities would be placed in designated stable disposal areas a minimum of 200 feet from any stream and in a location where sediment laden runoff can be confined. Where necessary, erosion control would be provided to minimize sediment delivery to streams.

- All natural surface or rock roads used for harvest operations or log hauling would receive adequate surfacing for winter use (generally 6-12 inches of clean, compacted rock), prior to the wet season and stabilized in such a way that no future maintenance would be necessary to prevent road damage or stream sedimentation.
- Prior to wet season hauling activities, structural road treatments would be implemented as needed to prevent discernible stream sedimentation from occurring during off season use, such as: increasing the frequency of cross drains, installing sediment barriers or catch basins, applying gravel lifts at stream crossing approaches, and cleaning and armoring ditchlines.
- Roads would be bladed and shaped to conserve existing aggregate surface material, and retain or restore the original cross section. Berms and other irregularities would be removed that impede effective runoff or cause erosion. During road improvement activities surface runoff is directed into vegetated, stable areas to the extent practical.
- When cleaning ditchlines, undercutting of cut-slopes would be avoided. Bare soils would be seeded and mulched including cleaned ditchlines that are hydrologically connected to stream channels. Routine machine cleaning of ditches and blading during the wet season would be avoided, generally mid-October through May of the next calendar year.
- \* Low-growing vegetation on cut-and-fill slopes would be retained (i.e. grasses, ferns).
- Culvert inlets and outlets, drainage structures and ditches would be inspected and maintained before and during the wet season to diminish the likelihood of plugged culverts and the possibility of washouts.
- Where appropriate downspouts and/or energy dissipaters would be utilized for drainage outlets.
- Flowing water would be diverted around each culvert or cross drain installation site Whenever there is sufficient water volume. Diverted water would be returned to the channel immediately downstream of the work site. Effective erosion control measures would be in place at all times during installation, and would be removed from the channel prior to September 15<sup>th</sup>. This period may be extended by the fish biologist, hydrologist, or as directed by the Authorized Officer.

#### Temporary Routes

- Dozer firelines that are reopened to remove dead and dying trees would be utilized and rehabilitated during the same dry season following logging operations.
- Temporary route construction and temporary route re-construction, use, and decommissioning, would occur during the dry season of a single calendar year.

- Temporary routes would not be located on or above headwalls, or on slopes in excess of 60%.
- Routes would be located on the upper slope or ridge, and would not enter any Riparian Reserves.

Activity Fuels Treatments

- Mechanically piling slash would not occur off of utilized landings and roads.
- To improve soil productivity and reduce erosion, woody material from logging would be scattered on yarding corridors, and where possible throughout the unit, on landings, and on temporary roads, to a maximum depth of 18 inches. Where slash quantity is such that lop-and-scatter treatment alone would result in an increase in the fire hazard classification, high concentrations of slash would be hand-piled and burned outside yarding corridors.
- Activity slash on yarding corridors would not be treated with activity fuels.
- Merchantable sawlogs would be removed from yarded material, and any remaining at the landing sites would be machine and/or hand piled and burned at approved locations, chipped, or removed for biomass utilization. In the event that slash will be better utilized it may be distributed back in the unit and yarding corridor for soil stabilization. Wind rows and concentrations of slash would not occur.
- Activity slash remaining in units would be lopped-and-scattered. Activity slash along roadways may be handpiled/burned, chipped, or lopped-and-scattered based on a post-logging assessment of fuel loading.
- A lop-and-scatter treatment would break up jackpots of material so that the slash does not increase the fire hazard. The lop portion of “lop-and-scatter” would cut slash so it would not exceed 18 inches in height from the ground and material less than 6 inches in diameter would be cut into pieces so it would not exceed 8 feet in length. Scattering would arrange slash in a discontinuous pattern across the forest floor. If the amount of slash remaining in units is too high of a fuel load because there are no open spaces to scatter the slash, chipping or handpiling followed by handpile burning may be recommended.
- Handpiles would be at least 5 feet tall and at least 6 feet in diameter. Each hand pile would be covered with a large enough piece of 4 millimeter black plastic to ensure a dry ignition spot. All 4 corners and the middle of plastic sheets shall be anchored with slash or other debris. To minimize scorch and mortality, hand piles would not be placed adjacent to or within 10 feet of leave trees or large woody debris.
- Around each landing pile, a minimum 10 foot area on the ground would be cleared of slash and other vegetation, litter, and debris to prevent escaped fire. Each landing pile would be covered with at least a 4 millimeter black plastic to ensure a dry ignition point

(generally 10 feet x 10 feet). All 4 corners and the middle of plastic sheets shall be anchored with slash or other debris. To minimize scorch and mortality, landing piles would not be placed adjacent to or within 15 feet of leave trees. To facilitate desired consumption, landing piles would be as free of dirt as reasonably possible.

- Piles would be burned in the fall to spring season after one or more inches of precipitation have occurred. Patrol and mop-up of burning piles would occur when needed to prevent treated areas from reburning or becoming an escaped fire.
- All prescribed burning would be managed in a manner consistent with the requirements of the Oregon Smoke Management Plan administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry and the regulations established by the Air Quality Division of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
- Prescribed fire burn plans would be completed before ignition, as would smoke clearance to minimize impacts on air quality.
- Slash piles would not be allowed on roadways, turnouts, shoulders, or on the cut bank, unless authorized by the Authorized Officer.

#### Hazmat

- Contractors would prepare a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan for all hazardous substances to be used in the contract area, as directed by the Authorized Officer. Such plan would include identification of Purchaser's representatives responsible for supervising initial containment action for releases and subsequent cleanup.
- Such plans would comply with the State of Oregon DEQ OAR 340-142, Oil and Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Requirements.
- Hydraulic fluid and fuel lines on heavy mechanized equipment would be in proper working condition to minimize potential for leakage into streams. No re-fueling of heavy equipment would occur within 150 feet of streams or stream crossings. Absorbent materials would be required to be onsite to allow for immediate containment of any accidental spills.
- Refueling of chainsaws and heavy equipment would be done no closer than 150 feet of any stream or wet area. Spilled fuel and oil would be cleaned-up and would be disposed of at an approved disposal site.
- Fire suppression foam would not be used within 150 feet of streams.

**Northern Spotted Owl (Threatened)**

Project Design Criteria included in the Medford District BLM's Stratton/Brimstone Biological Assessment have been applied and incorporated into the design of the Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project (see below).

*Units outside of northern spotted owl ½ mile core areas*

- The two largest snags per acre would be retained, if snags are available and are not a hazard to the operation.
- Large coarse woody debris would be retained per the specification under the Harvest Operation PDF on page 5.

*Units within northern spotted owl ½ mile core areas*

- Retain all coarse woody debris.

*Stratton Creek unit 27-24 and unit 23-9*

- Retain 4-7 snags per acre on average.

Any of the following measures may be waived in a particular year if nesting or reproductive success surveys conducted according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) survey guidelines reveal that spotted owls are non-nesting or that no young are present that year. Waivers are valid only until March 1 of the following year. Previously known well established sites and nesting activity centers are assumed occupied unless protocol surveys indicate otherwise.

- Activities (such as tree felling, yarding, temporary route construction and re-construction, and hauling on roads not generally used by the public, prescribed fire, ) that produce loud noises above ambient levels would not occur within specified distances (Table A-1) of any documented owl site between March 1 and June 30 (or until two weeks after the fledging period) – unless protocol surveys have determined the activity center to be not occupied, non-nesting, or failed in their nesting attempt. The distances may be shortened if significant topographical breaks muffle sound traveling between the work location and nest sites.
- The action agency has the option to extend the restricted season until September 30 during the year of harvest, based on site-specific knowledge (such as a late or recycle nesting attempt) if project would cause a nesting spotted owl to flush. (See Table A-1 for disturbance distance).

**Table A-1. Disturbance Distances from Various Activities for Spotted Owls**

| Activity   | Buffer Distance<br>Around northern<br>spotted owl Nest Sites |
|--|--|
| Heavy Equipment (including non-blasting quarry operations) | 105 feet   |
| Chain saws   | 195 feet   |
| Commercial Timber Harvest                                  | 0.25 miles   |
| Prescribed fire/Activity fuel burning                      | 0.25 miles   |
| Helicopter Operations (March – June 30)                    | 0.25 miles   |

**Noxious Weeds/Special Status Species**

- Wash equipment including undercarriages prior to entry onto BLM-administered lands to remove mud, dirt, and plant parts.
- Protect known Special Status plant sites with buffers where required to minimize adverse impacts from project activities. Results of BLM surveys and site management requirements are provided in the attached Botany Species Survey and Site Management Summary. If, during implementation of the proposed project, additional Special Status plant sites are found, the project botanist would prescribe appropriate measures based on species, proposed treatment, site-specific environmental conditions, and available management recommendations.

**Cultural**

- Cultural resource surveys have been conducted within the proposed action area in accordance with the National Cultural Programmatic Agreement and Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Lands Administered by the BLM in Oregon. Site specific protection measures or specific Project Design Features (PDFs) would be implemented to preserve the integrity of significant cultural resources, referred to as Historic Properties in cultural resource protection laws and regulations.
- If cultural resources are discovered during project implementation the project would be redesigned to protect the cultural resource values present, or evaluation or mitigation procedures would be implemented based on recommendations from the Resource Area Archaeologist, with input from interested federally recognized Tribes, approved by the Field Manager, and with concurrence from SHPO.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

- the *Final-Medford District Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision* (EIS, 1994 and RMP/ROD, 1995);
- the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan FSEIS, 1994 and ROD, 1994); including the *Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives*.

- *Final SEIS for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2000), and the *ROD and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines* (2001);
- the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon* (FSEIS, 2004 and ROD, 2004); and
- *Medford District Integrated Weed Management Plan Environmental Assessment (1998)* and tiered to the *Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program* (EIS, 1985)

### C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 C(8) as follows:

- (8) *Salvaging dead or dying trees not to exceed 250 acres, requiring no more than 0.5 miles of temporary road construction. Such activities:*
- May include incidental removal of live or dead trees for landings, skid trails, and road clearing.*
  - May include temporary roads which are defined as roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation not intended to be part of the BLM transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management. Temporary roads shall be designed to standards appropriate for the intended uses, considering safety, cost of transportation, and impacts on land and resources; and*
  - Shall require the treatment of temporary roads constructed or used so as to permit the reestablishment, by artificial or natural means, of vegetative cover on the roadway and areas where the vegetative cover was disturbed by the construction or use of the road, as necessary to minimize erosion from the disturbed area. Such treatment shall be designed to reestablish vegetative cover as soon as practicable, but at least within 10 years after the termination of the contract.*
  - For this CX, a dying tree is defined as a standing tree that has been severely damaged by forces such as fire, wind, ice, insects, or disease, and that in the judgment of an experienced forest professional or someone technically trained for the work, is likely to die within a few years. Examples include, but are not limited to:*
    - Harvesting a portion of a stand damaged by a wind or ice event.*
    - Harvesting fire damaged trees.*

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances having effects that may significantly affect the environment as documented in the following review. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR § 46.215 rise to the level of significance. A summary of the extraordinary circumstances is listed below. The action must have a significant or a disproportional effect on the listed categories to warrant further analysis and environmental review.

**D. Categorical Exclusion Review**

Department of the Interior Regulations 43 CFR § 46.205 (c) require that any action that is normally categorically excluded must be evaluated to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances found at 43 CFR § 46.215. An action would meet one of the extraordinary circumstances if the action may:

| <b>CE Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation</b>   |            |           |
|---|------------|-----------|
| <b>The proposed Categorical Exclusion action will:</b>  | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| 2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.  |            | X         |
| <p>Rationale: Operations will follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards designed to prevent job-related illness or injuries. Operations will remove or fall standing trees that currently represent a hazard to workers and the public.</p>  |            |           |
| 2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.  |            | X         |
| <p>Rationale: Treatment would occur on up to 170 acres within the Matrix land use allocation of the Stratton Creek and Brimstone Fire perimeter. This treatment area is located outside the unique geographic areas listed above. There are no parks, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild and scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; or other ecologically significant or critical areas within the project area.</p> <p>Cultural resource surveys have been conducted within the proposed action areas in accordance with the National Cultural Programmatic Agreement and Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Lands Administered by the BLM in Oregon. Significant cultural resource sites identified within project areas of potential effects (APE) will be protected with specific Project Design Features. There will be no significant impacts to prehistoric or historic cultural resources.</p> <p>The fire altered the habitat for migratory birds by increasing habitat for early successional species, snag dependent species, and open canopy species. The proposed treatment would not decrease overall landscape population levels for these species, and therefore would not have significant impacts on migratory birds.</p>  |            |           |
| 2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].  |            | X         |
| <p>Rationale: The BLM acknowledges public opposition and recognizes scientific controversy regarding fire salvage and ecological restoration. The BLM does not counter the scientific rationale for ecosystem restoration. This project's Categorical Exclusion Authority allows for the economic recovery of dead and dying trees not to exceed 250 acres. The project Purpose and Need is to recover the economic value of fire-injured and fire-killed trees on Matrix lands while balancing the need to minimize environmental effects to resources from project implementation.</p> <p>Only trees that are fire-injured or fire-killed would be salvaged. A fire-injured tree with a high probability of mortality is defined as a Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, or incense cedar tree with more than 70 percent crown scorch. Two snags per acre 20 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) or greater would be left within the majority of treatment units. Units 27-24 and 23-9 would retain 4-7 snags per acre on average. Unit 27-24 occurs in a northern spotted owl critical habitat unit and unit 23-9 is within a northern spotted owl 500 acre core area and has been classified as northern spotted owl nesting, roosting and foraging habitat. The proposed salvage operations would treat but maintain current habitat classifications. While other units also occur within the 500 acre northern spotted owl core area these units have been classified as dispersal habitat and would retain a minimum of 2 snags per acre. The proposed salvage areas outside of northern spotted owl 500 acre core areas would retain 120 linear feet of</p> |            |           |

| <b>CE Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation</b>  |            |           |
|--|------------|-----------|
| <b>The proposed Categorical Exclusion action will:</b>   | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| <p>merchantable coarse wood per acre on average; additional merchantable coarse wood may be removed as a commercial product. In addition to the 120 linear feet of merchantable coarse woody debris, a minimum of 280 linear feet of non-merchantable coarse woody debris would be retained. Where present, the total retention for coarse woody debris per unit on average would be 400 linear feet, 120 linear feet of merchantable coarse wood and 280 linear feet of non-merchantable coarse wood. Proposed units within northern spotted owl 500 acre core areas would retain existing coarse woody debris.</p> <p>This project conforms to the Medford District ROD/RMP. The Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project would retain coarse woody debris and snags in quantities that meet or exceed the minimal levels identified in the Medford District ROD/RMP.</p>  |            |           |
| 2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  |            | X         |
| <p>Rationale: The BLM interdisciplinary team of resource specialists for the Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project reviewed the project and determined there is no threat of significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks.</p>  |            |           |
| 2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.  |            | X         |
| <p>Rationale: Salvage operations have occurred on the Medford District in the past and are likely to occur in the future. However, each project contains its own set of conditions that must be evaluated on its own merit, as the BLM has done with this project. Land use allocations and environmental conditions, such as remaining vegetation, slopes, soils, and streams, are unique to each project and must be considered anew as each opportunity for treatment occurs. This action does not represent a decision in principle about the future actions with potentially significant effects.</p>   |            |           |
| 2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  |            | X         |
| <p>Rationale: Due to the checker-board pattern of ownership that typifies Western Oregon BLM lands many private and county lands adjacent to BLM lands in the proposed Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project area have been logged or are currently being logged. The proposed Stratton/Brimstone Salvage project is 170 acres and excludes salvage in Riparian Reserves, 100 acre Northwest Forest Plan northern spotted owl activity centers, and 70 acre northern spotted owl nest patches. A total of 2,452 acres burned during the Stratton Creek Fire and the Brimstone Fire. The proposed Stratton/Brimstone treatment area is 170 acres which totals 7% of the acres burned in the Stratton Creek Fire and the Brimstone Fire perimeters. While the actions on private, county, and BLM lands occur within the same geographical area the conservative approach to the Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project does not contribute to cumulatively significant environmental effects. The majority of the proposed treatment units are not directly adjacent to private or county lands, 2 project units are directly adjacent to actions on private and county lands. These units will not contribute to significant effects due to the exclusion of Riparian Reserves, 100 acre Northwest Forest Plan northern spotted owl activity centers, and 70 acre northern spotted owl nest patches. Additionally, snag retention will be focused along the borders of proposed treatment units and will act as a buffer between BLM land and county and private lands.</p> <p>The BLM interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviewed the project based on current on-the-ground conditions. The interdisciplinary team incorporated Project Design Features into the project to minimize impacts to resources and prevent off-site effects that would contribute to the cumulative effects of other projects in the area (i.e. No treatments within Riparian Reserves, 100 acre Northwest Forest Plan</p> |            |           |

| <b>CE Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation</b>   |            |           |
|---|------------|-----------|
| <b>The proposed Categorical Exclusion action will:</b>  | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| northern spotted owl activity centers, 70 acre northern spotted owl nest patches and increased snag and coarse woody debris retention). The interdisciplinary team determined that the actions proposed in the Stratton/Brimstone salvage would not result in a cumulative significant effect when added to relevant past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions in the area.  |            |           |
| 2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.   |            | X         |
| Rationale: There are no significant impacts to properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places. No National Register Listed sites, or sites eligible for listing, were identified in areas of potential effect (APE) during archaeological survey or extensive background research.   |            |           |
| 2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.  |            | X         |
| Rationale: Treatments would not change the function of spotted owl habitat and Project Design Features provide for seasonal restriction if a known site is nesting. If, during implementation of the proposed action, a species is discovered the BLM would apply the appropriate protective measures in accordance with the Design Features listed for this project. Approximately 73 acres of spotted owl critical habitat in the Klamath West Unit occurs within the Brimstone fire perimeter, however, no proposed units within the Brimstone fire perimeter occur within the critical habitat unit. The Stratton Creek unit (12 acres) also occurs in the northern spotted owl Klamath West critical habitat unit, and is not likely to adversely affect forest stand and landscape function of the critical habitat unit. |            |           |
| Critical habitat for fish is present, however, salvage is not proposed in Riparian Reserves. Therefore designated critical habitat for fish would not be affected.  |            |           |
| 2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.   |            | X         |
| Rationale: The BLM interdisciplinary team for the Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project reviewed the project for compliance with applicable laws such as the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air Act, National Historic Preservation Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act, among others. The resource specialists found the project conforms to the direction given for the management of public lands in the Medford District ROD/RMP, which complies with all applicable Federal and State law.   |            |           |
| 2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).   |            | X         |
| Rationale: Based on past projects in the Grants Pass Resource Area, the project would provide job opportunities in communities such as Merlin and Hugo. The project does not have a disproportionately high or adverse effect to low income or minority populations.  |            |           |
| 2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).  |            | X         |
| Rationale: The project archaeologist conducted a cultural survey for the project area. No Indian sacred sites were identified during the survey. The project does not significantly or adversely affect the physical integrity of any such sacred sites. The project archaeologist is a member of the Hungry Hill Work Group and as a member of this group has exchanged phone calls, emails, and has attended collaborative  |            |           |

| <b>CE Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation</b>  |            |           |
|--|------------|-----------|
| <b>The proposed Categorical Exclusion action will:</b>   | <b>YES</b> | <b>NO</b> |
| meetings. There has been coordination with local tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office. Consultation for post fire related projects is on-going.   |            |           |
| 2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).   |            | X         |
| Rationale: The proposed action does not result in measurable changes to the current baseline of the risk, or actual introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative invasive species in or from the project area. The implementation of Design Features such as washing equipment prior to entry to the project area and using native seed and weed-free mulch after final disturbance and the ongoing treatment of noxious weeds in the project area will reduce the risk of introduction or spread of noxious weeds. Existing and likely continuing activities including, but not limited to, motor vehicle traffic, recreation use, rural and urban development, road construction, timber harvest, and natural processes can contribute to the introduction, existence, and spread of noxious weeds and invasive species. Vehicles accessing the project area would stay on existing roads (no additional permanent roads are proposed), reducing the potential of picking up and dispersing noxious weeds or seed. The proposed action does not introduce any vector for spread or introduction beyond such vectors already found. |            |           |

**E. Public Comment Period**

The Stratton Brimstone Salvage Project Categorical Exclusion (DOI-BLM-OR-M070-2014-002-CX) is available for a 15-day review and public comment period. Notification of the comment period will include: the publication of the legal notice in the Daily Courier newspaper of Grants Pass, Oregon; and a letter will be mailed to those individuals, organizations, and agencies that have requested to be involved in the environmental planning and decision making process for activities in the Grants Pass Resource Area.

The Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project Categorical Exclusion is available for review and comment. I encourage you to provide comments in writing regarding the proposed project starting February 18, 2014 to the Grants Pass Resource Area Field Manager, Allen Bollschweiler, at the address below. Comments will be considered in making the final decision.

Comments need to be submitted on or before March 3, 2014. Comments may be delivered or mailed to the Grants Pass Interagency Office, 2164 NE Spalding Avenue, 97526. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., closed holidays. The document may also be accessed on the Medford District’s internet site at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/medford/plans/index.php>. If you have questions or comments and do not have internet access or would prefer a paper copy of this document, please contact Leah Schofield, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (541) 471-6504.

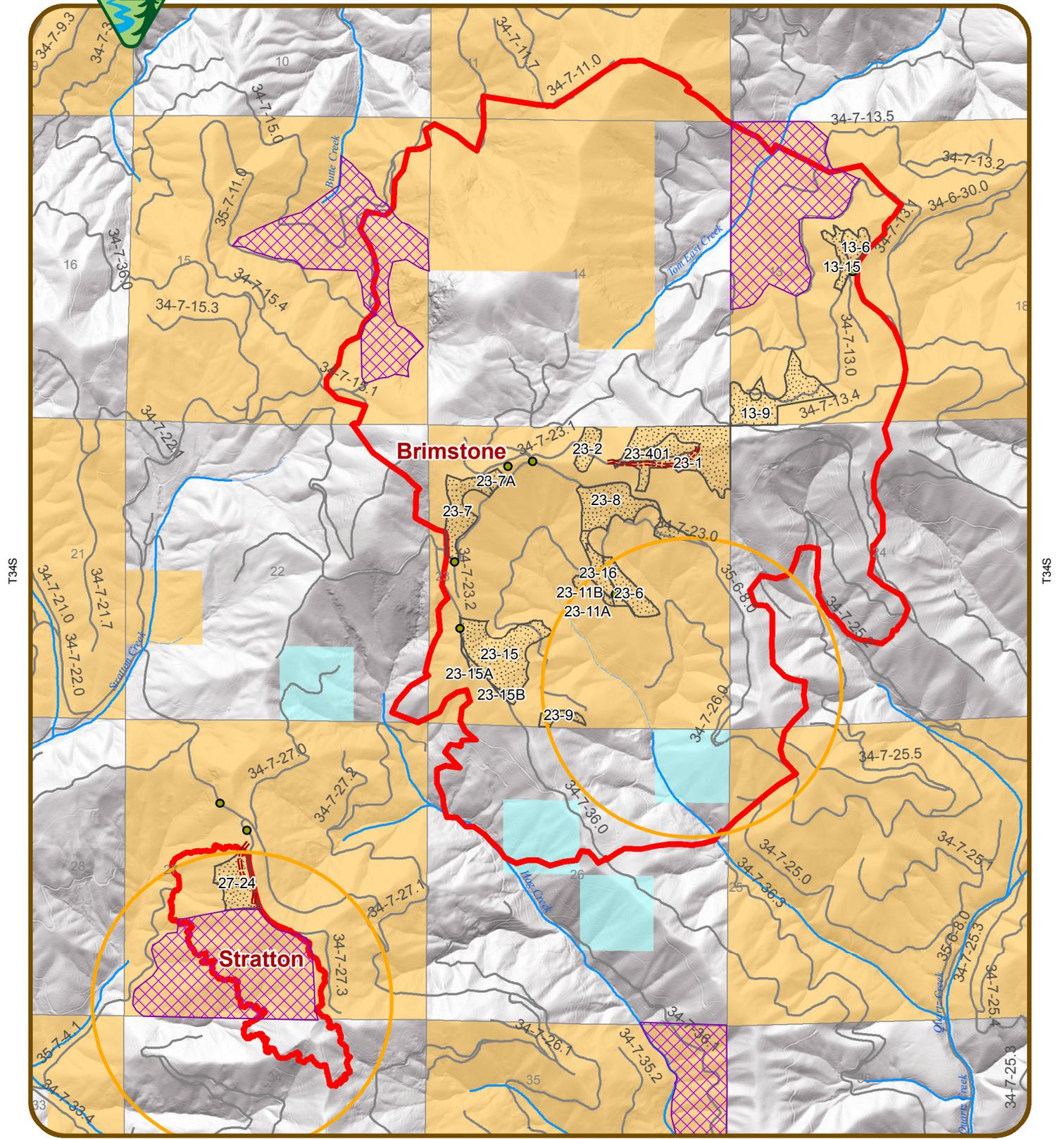
Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored by the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from





# Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project

R07W



T34S

T34S

### Legend

- NSO Cores
  - Known NSO Activity Centers
  - Helicopter Landings
  - Temp Routes
  - Treatment Area
  - Roads
- Land Ownership**
- BLM
  - State Land
  - Private/Unknown



Date: 2/4/2014

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

**APPENDIX 2**  
**SURVEY AND MANAGE TRACKING FORMS**

**Survey & Manage Tracking Form:*****Botany Species Survey and Site Management Summary*****BLM Office:** Grants Pass Resource Area**Project Name:** Stratton/Brimstone Post-fire Recovery Project**Prepared By:** Bryan Wender, Botanist**Project Type:** Up to 170 acres of post-fire tree harvesting**Location:** Stratton Creek Fire: Township 34 South, Range 7 West, Section 27 in Willamette Meridian, Josephine County, Oregon.

Brimstone Fire: Township 34 South, Range 7 West, Section 11, 13, 14, 15, 23, and 25 in Willamette Meridian, Josephine County, Oregon

**S&M List Date:** 2001 ROD without Annual Species Reviews**Table A. Survey & Manage Botany Species**

The Medford District BLM compiled the species listed below per the 2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines. This list includes those vascular and non-vascular plant species with pre-disturbance survey requirements (Category A or C species), whose known or suspected range includes the Medford District BLM according to:

- Species distribution maps located at:  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/sfpnw/issssp/planning-tools/species-distribution-maps.shtml>
- Management Recommendations and Species Fact Sheets for Vascular Plants and Lichens, available at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/surveyandmanage/recommendations/>
- Survey Protocols for Survey & Manage Category A & C Lichens in the Northwest Forest Plan Area, Version 2.1 (2003), BLM, USFS, and USFWS.

This list also includes any Category B, D, E, or F species with known sites located within the Stratton/Brimstone Post-fire Recovery Project. Applicable site management prescriptions for these species are consistent with Management Recommendations and Species Fact Sheets available at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/surveyandmanage/recommendations/>

**Survey & Manage Tracking Form:**

Wildlife Species Survey and Site Management Summary  
 Medford District BLM, Grants Pass Resource Area

**Project Name:** Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project

**Location:** T34S-R7W-Sections 13, 23, and 27 in Josephine County, Willamette Meridian.

**S&M List Date:** 2001 ROD

**Table A: Survey & Manage Wildlife Species**

The Medford District compiled the species listed below from the 2001 ROD. The list includes those vertebrate and invertebrate species with pre-disturbance survey requirements (Category A, B, or C species), whose known or suspected range includes the Medford District according to:

- *Survey Protocols for Amphibians under the Survey & Manage Provision of the Northwest Forest Plan v3.0 (Oct. 1999),*
- *Survey protocol for the Great Gray Owl within the Range of the Northwest Forest Plan v3.0 (1/ 2004)*
- *Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole v3.0 (Nov. 2012)*
- *Survey Protocol for Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan. Draft Version 2.0 (October 1997), and Survey Protocol for Survey and Manage Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan, Version 3.0 (2003).*

No known Category D, E or F wildlife species with known sites located within the Brimstone Project.

| Species               | S&M Category | Survey Triggers              |                                    |  | Survey Results    |                                |                       | Site Management |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
|                       |              | Within Range of the Species? | Project Contains Suitable habitat? | Project may negatively affect species/habitat? | Surveys Required? | Surveys completed (month/year) | Sites known or Found? |                 |
| <b>Vertebrates</b>    |              |                              |                                    |  |                   |                                |                       |                 |
| Great Gray Owl        | C            | Yes                          | No                                 | No   | No                | No                             | No                    | N/A             |
| Red Tree Vole         | C            | Yes                          | Yes                                | Yes*   | Yes               | Jan 2014 <sup>1</sup>          | No                    | No              |
| Del Norte Salamander  |              |                              |                                    |  |                   |                                |                       |                 |
| <b>Mollusks</b>       |              |                              |                                    |  |                   |                                |                       |                 |
| Siskiyou Sideband     | B            | No                           | N/A                                | N/A  | N/A               | N/A                            | N/A                   | N/A             |
| Crater Lake Tightcoil | B            | No                           | N/A                                | N/A  | N/A               | N/A                            | N/A                   | N/A             |
| Evening Fieldslug     | B            | No                           | N/A                                | N/A  | N/A               | N/A                            | N/A                   | N/A             |

\*Habitat disturbing and thereby a trigger for surveys defined in the 2001 ROD S&Gs (p. 22). N/A= Not Applicable

1 = Protocol surveys were conducted in an area of unburned forest habitat older than 80 years old with a proposed temporary road construction. Six potential red tree vole nests were identified and climbed for verification, and no red tree vole evidence was found.

**Statement of Compliance.** The Grants Pass Resource Area applied the 2011 Settlement Agreement Species List to the Stratton/Brimstone Salvage Project, completing pre-disturbance surveys and management of known sites (Table A) required by Survey Protocols and Management Recommendations to comply with the *2001 Record of Decision and Standard and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measure Standards and Guidelines (2001 ROD S&Gs)*.

Marlin Pose  
 Wildlife Biologist, Grants Pass RA

Date 1/31/2014

### APPENDIX 3 PORT ORFORD CEDAR RISK ASSESSMENT

**Port Orford Cedar Risk Key Analysis for Brimstone-Stratton Fire Recovery Project**

(Risk Key is from Alternative 2 of the FSEIS for Management of Port Orford Cedar in Southwest Oregon, and the Record of Decision)

| QUESTION   |  | DOI-BLM-OR-070-2014-002-CX : T34S-R07W-Section 11, 13, 14, 15, 23, 25, & 27   |               |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|---|---------------|--|--|--|--|
| 1a.  | Are there uninfected POC within, near <sup>1</sup> , or downstream of the activity area whose ecological, Tribal, or product use or function measurably contributes to meeting land and resource management plan objectives?   | No  | No            |  |  |  |  |
| 1b.  | Are there uninfected POC within, near <sup>1</sup> , or downstream of the activity area that, were they to become infected, would likely spread infections to trees whose ecological, Tribal, or product use or function measurably contributes to meeting land and resource management plan objectives? | No  | No            |  |  |  |  |
| 1c.  | Is the activity area within an uninfested 7 <sup>m</sup> field watershed <sup>2</sup> as defined in Alternative 6  | No  | No            |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | <i>If the answer to all three questions, 1a, 1b, and 1c, is no, then risk is low and no POC management practices would be required.</i> |               |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | <i>If the answer to any of the three questions is yes, continue.</i>  |               |  |  |  |  |
| 2.   | Will the proposed project introduce appreciable additional risk <sup>3</sup> of infection to these uninfected POC?   |   |               |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | <i>If no, then risk is low and no POC management practices are required.</i>  |               |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | <b>**Management Practices by Road/Road System</b>   |               |  |  |  |  |
| <p><i>If yes, apply management practices from the list below [within FSEIS] to reduce the risk to the point it is no longer appreciable, or meet the disease control objectives by other means, such as redesigning the project so that uninfected POC are no longer near or downstream of the activity area. If the risk cannot be reduced to the point it is no longer appreciable through practicable and cost-effective treatments or design changes, the project may proceed if the analysis supports a finding that the value or need for the proposed activity outweighs the additional risk to POC created by the project.</i></p> |  | Roads   | Project Units |  |  |  |  |

1 - In questions 1a and 1b, "near" generally means within 25 to 50 feet downslope or 25 feet upslope from management activity areas, access roads, or haul routes; farther for drainage features; 100 to 200 feet in streams.

2 - Uninfested 7th field watersheds are listed on Table A12-2 [of FSEIS] as those with at least 100 acres of POC stands, are at least 50% federal ownership, and are free of PL except within the lowermost 2 acres of the drainage.

3 - Appreciable additional risk does not mean "any risk." It means that a reasonable person would recognize risk, additional to existing uncontrollable risk, to believe mitigation is warranted and would make a cost-effective or important difference (see Risk Key Definitions and Examples for further discussion.)

\*Activities within these sections should incorporate management activities regardless of POC occurrence within the individual stand due to access routes containing POC

\*\*Management practices: 1) project scheduling, 2) utilize uninfested water, 3) unit scheduling, 4) access, 5) public information, 6) fuels management, 7) incorporate POC objectives into prescribed fire plans, 8) routing recreation use, 9) road management measures, 10) resistant POC planting, 11) washing project equipment, 12) logging systems, 13) spacing objectives for POC thinning, 14) non-POC special forest products, 15) summer rain events, 16) roadside sanitation, and 17) site-specific POC management